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Young artists
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Report forces road closures
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'Year for results'
Regional chair optimistic about 2012
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INPORT NEWS



SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 10 VOLUME 16

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca**■ COMMUNITY**

Minds come together to make area age-friendly

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - How do you make a community age-friendly?

You drive the knowledge from lifelong residents in those communities in order to help achieve this goal.

At Port Colborne city hall last Thursday, residents from Port Colborne and Wainfleet bounced ideas off one another during an informal roundtable discussion hosted by Niagara Age-Friendly Community Initiative.

see **COMMUNITY** | page 2

■ WEATHER: Lakers collide in canal, fences and trees fall, phones and ATMs down for hours

Winds whip Niagara



MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Strong gusts of wind tore through Niagara on Friday night and Saturday, felling damaged trees and power lines, twisted street signs, and even causing a collision between two lakes in the Welland Canal.

Niagara Regional Police received several calls about downed trees and power lines, but none in which significant damage was reported, said Staff Sgt. Jim Leigh.

see **WEATHER** | page 2

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
The CSL Assiniboine broke free of its moorings in the Welland Canal on Saturday, drifted across the canal and came to rest against the Aligwood. There was no word on damage to either vessel.

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■ COMMUNITY

Ideas exchanged during round-table forum



FROM PAGE 1

The purpose of the event is to engage a conversation in order to produce ideas on how to improve programs and services in the two

EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo
Virginia Stewart, community co-ordinator for Niagara Age-Friendly Community Initiative, addresses a small group during a roundtable discussion Thursday on community improvements.

■ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Awards ceremony in April

Best of lakeside communities receive recognition

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORTE COBORNE — Excellence is a trait that few people achieve.

There are many outstanding citizens living in Port Colborne and Wainfleet. Their tireless contributions to making the community vibrant may often go unrecognized.

That's about to change.

The best of the best in the two south Niagara municipalities will be honoured at the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce at its annual President's Award Reception which takes place at the Guild Hall in Port Colborne on April 4.

"The Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce's vision is to help nurture and sustain economic growth in our two communities by creating that a strong and vibrant business sector coupled with strong community volunteers is the key to a better quality of life for all our citizens," said chamber of commerce president Patti Stirling. "It is our role to recognize the leaders and emerging leaders in our communities and acknowledge their accomplishments."

A select group of individu-

municipalities for the benefit of all citizens, particularly older adults.

"We want to capture all the information to produce a final report we can present to (municipal) councils and community groups," said Virginia Stewart, community co-ordinator for Niagara Age-Friendly Community Initiative, addressing a small group during a roundtable discussion Thursday on community improvements.

improve our community."

Stewart said improving the community can be as simple as having an extra bicycle rack on the sidewalk or having additional bus routes. Anything that the adults in the roundtable consider important.

Several residents stated they liked the small community feel of both municipalities, noting Port Colborne and Wainfleet have amenities such as farmers' markets, libraries and recreational programs to take advantage of.

"We have a small network in Wainfleet with good programs," said one township resident. "We have people come in to talk about health and nutrition. There's quite a bit going on."

An issue presented as a challenge during the discussion was transportation. One resident noted while Port Colborne has transportation options such as taxi and transit, some services are lacking in Wainfleet.

Port Colborne Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais par-

ticipated in the discussion. Desmarais found it refreshing that the attitudes of both communities are positive towards improvement.

"Both communities have the 'let's make it grow and change it' attitude," she said. "Let's improve things here."

The 12 residents later broke into two groups to discuss specific issues such as transportation and communication. Stewart hopes to hold more roundtable discussions in every municipality in Niagara.

■ WEATHER

High winds keep police busy

FROM PAGE 1

Police were "steady" throughout Saturday morning responding to calls related to the high winds, he said.

Police and Welland firefighters both responded to the Centre de Santé Communautaire, 810 East Main St., at about 8:30 a.m. Saturday after reports portions of the roof had come loose.

Pieces of the recently-constructed francophone health centre's roof had blown off the building and into the parking lot. Welland fire platoon chief John Infantino said, adding roofing materials from a building to the west of the centre had also ripped free in the wind.

The fire department received numerous calls Saturday morning from various businesses, including those in the Ontario Rd. Plaza experiencing problems with their electrical panels, Infantino said.

Despite receiving a number of calls, the Welland fire department did not respond to any that were serious in nature where major damage or injuries occurred, he said.

As a result of the high winds, there were disruptions to 911 service, including Niagara Regional Police, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls fire services, and Niagara Emergency Medical Service from 11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., police reported Saturday.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
George Holmes of Niagara Falls rides a wave on Lake Erie near the Palwood Hotel in Crystal Beach Saturday. High winds created big waves along the shoreline from Fort Erie through Wainfleet.

In that period, 94 911 calls were affected.

The NRP deploy an electronic notification system that captures unanswered 911 calls. Most of the 911 calls were resolved by telephone callbacks and by emergency personnel response, police said in a news release issued Saturday.

As well, shoppers were limited to using cash as telephone service was interrupted, causing automatic tellers and debit machines to go down.

Telephones also were down for extended periods Saturday

as winds whipping as fast as 100 km/h in some parts of the region affected transmission towers.

In Port Colborne, high winds caused the CSL Foundation to break loose from its holdings in the Welland Canal and collide with the Algoumo. Both ships were docked for the winter.

The collision occurred sometime between Friday night and early Saturday morning.

A representative from St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. could not

be reached for comment or to provide further detail on the incident. No information was available at press time about damage for either vessel.

In Welland, the same Sunday, CSL's self-unloading散货船 Tarantau broke loose from its moorings on the west side of the canal and drifted across the harbour where it came to rest alongside the Canadian Explorer, which was on the east side of the canal. There was no damage to the two vessels and the Tarantau was returned to its original berth later in the day.

portraits

■ ART: Works in a variety of medium showcased at Saturday night show

Event draws young artists

LINDSAY COSTELLO
For InPort News

POR T COLBORNE — Young artists mixed business with pleasure as they got together and showcased their creations during the Young Niagara Movement's art show on Saturday evening.

The Young Niagara Movement is a collective of young artists and business-minded youth who are showcasing the talents of Niagara-based creators. Co-founders Josh Hanson and Caroline Benner created the movement as they saw a lack of opportunities for young artists and wanted to assist them by giving them exposure and helping them explore the business side of the industry.

"It helps them share

themselves as artists," said Benner, 18, of arts show concept titled *The Movement Art Show* she developed to launch the project.

Held in Port Colborne's Guild Hall, the show featured about 10 Niagara artists who displayed artwork created using a variety of mediums. Whether it was paintings, photographs, sculptures, or graphic designs, the night served as a platform for creators willing to share their talents with others from across the region.

Running from 7 to 11:30, the show allowed artists to interact with viewers and because the pieces varied rather than following a particular theme, each creator was in charge of their own table.

"We're looking forward to our involvement in the community," Benner said.

Hanson, 19, said heiden-

tized more with the business side of the Young Niagara Movement and sees a need for awareness when it comes to creative jobs.

"We have so many peers who are trying to get their careers going," said Hanson, adding the endeavour aims to help young people network and take their hobbies to the next level.

Hanson established The Young Niagara Movement this past December. Benner and Hanson wish to further expand their idea over time and delve into new facets of the project. They hope to develop a mentoring program to give artists an opportunity to work with and learn from professionals with careers in arts and the industry.

"It helps them share



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo

From left, Young Niagara Movement co-founders Josh Hanson and Caroline Benner joined artist Jessie Richard as she showcased her paintings at The Movement Art Show on Saturday in Port Colborne.

MAYORS BREAKFAST

Badawey: Revenue generated by parking meters is 'minimal'

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

POR T COLBORNE — If we were up to him, Mayor Vance Badawey would get rid of parking meters.

"Parking meters take up space and revenue generated by them is minimal," he said at the quarterly Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce mayors breakfast at the Guild Hall last Thursday.

He made the comment in response to a question from Gary Talosi, of Dundee Wealth, about proposed parking machines in the downtown core. Talosi said he was shocked the machines were almost passed by city council and wondered if the Downtown BIA had been

convinced.

Badawey said discussion about the parking machines, which are now installed on West St., has been ongoing with the BIA for the past four years.

"A debate has to happen ... whether we have paid parking or not," he said.

Parking meters, said Badawey, were made for commercial purposes. He said if there were no meters, he'd expect business owners and employees not to park in front of their stores, instead leaving spaces for residents and tourists.

And when it comes to tourists, chamber president Patti Stirling asked Badawey about public washrooms. Stirling said tourists ask her when public washrooms are



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey listens to Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs during Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce's quarterly mayors breakfast Thursday at the Guild Hall in Port Colborne.

and wondered whether the pilot house on West St., at Charlotte St., could be used. Badawey said that was on

council's list of budget items, but was cut to bring down the tax rate.

"We hope to do it next

year," he said.

But Heli, Port Colborne's city manager, said people can use city hall washrooms, which are on the first floor and fully-accessible. But city hall, he said, is only open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He noted the washrooms in the library can be used as well.

While Badawey and Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs fielded a few questions during the roundtable discussion, a former Port Colborne mayor was at the table and asked a question of both.

Nel Schoen, mayor from 1994 to 1997, asked about wind turbines in the two municipalities and where the municipalities stood.

Jeffs said Wainfleet has

passed a moratorium on wind turbines and said at least five are slated for the township right now, though there could more in the future.

She noted council had considered a two-kilometre residential setback bylaw, but only received a report for information on it the other night. She said the Green Energy Act gives the municipality more power.

Badawey said there's interest in offshore wind turbines in Port Colborne, despite a moratorium on them at the moment.

There's also interest in placing some along the entrance to the canal, on the east pier lands and possibly farther up the canal, north of Second Concession, he said.

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ourview

Breast cancer awareness neglects key constituents

Let's talk about young women's breasts.

Against a landscape painted by La Senza and Victoria's Secret, breast cancer is seen as a disease for women who have reached that "Wonderbra in the box from Sears" stage of life.

The truth is, breast cancer is not guilty of age discrimination.

Every year in Canada, 900 young women are diagnosed with breast cancer. Cruelly, this age group is most likely to contract aggressive cancer.

Both patients and their physicians are prone to miss, dismiss or misdiagnose early cancer symptoms.

With early treatment critical to survival, one in nine of these women will die from the disease.

Awareness is the key.

Tied up with its pink ribbons, breast cancer is too much the media darling of oncology.

Canadians donate 151 times more to charities specific to breast cancer than to pancreatic, stomach, lung and colorectal cancer charities combined.

Breast cancer receives 28% of all Canadian cancer funding in terms of the amount of the disease. This has been commercialized by the pharmaceutical products on the market — products that infer status and often produce a profit for their sellers. It is inappropriately sexualized — witness a hockey player wearing an "I love Boobies" button.

Somehow, breast cancer awareness has become about people proving they are aware of breast cancer.

Breast cancer awareness needs to be about educating women about breast health and breast self-examination. It needs to be about teaching young women they are not immune. This must be a stronger focus of health education in high schools and promotion for public health officials.

Women, especially young women, need awareness of patient empowerment. They can ask for diagnostic tests. They can ask for a second opinion.

Breast cancer awareness needs to be about educating physicians on how to properly perform a breast exam, and scrutinize early symptoms. The medical profession needs to be reminded that young women get breast cancer, too.

None of that is particularly sexy. It won't fit on a bracelet and it makes a lousy banner for a fundraiser.

But it will save lives.

—Andrea DeMeer

I'VE BEEN THINKING

God does help and more

FR. DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
St Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

I met George Slater when he was a United Church Minister in Toronto. He had a doctorate in the psychology of religion and counseling from Boston University. He went into counseling and over the years met an amazing number of remarkable people. Now retired, George has taken to writing. His second book is called "Along Comes God: Miracles in everyday life."

In this book George recounts how God has worked in his life and those of people. Some of the true stories contain personal testimonies. One of these was written by a man who had played professional hockey for 16 years before he retired. He then worked in construction but was laid off. He worked as a painter for \$2 an hour. He worked as a car salesman, but soon realized he was the worst car salesman in the world. When he quit, his manager told him he was not cut out for sales. He thought that he was a failure and gave up.

He then worked at his quiet school and didn't even get a trade. He thought of the mess he had made in his life. Suddenly something seemed to tell him to get on his knees and ask the Lord for help, which he did. He prayed, "Lord, is this it? What am I going to do? I can't get a job. My life is just one big failure. I am embarrassed to look

my wife and kids in the eye."

Then, incredibly, "a light or something came in this room" and somehow he knew exactly what he was going to do. "A voice or something" came into his mind, saying, "a comeback in hockey."

He started his comeback as the oldest Rochester Hockey Club player but was soon benched. The team was awful and the General Manager decided to make him coach. "The team missed the playoffs by a point and he was fired."

Later he was hired to coach the Rochester Bruins. The Bruins kept winning. He was named Coach of the Year. Then the Boston Bruins hired him as coach. He won another coaching award. The team made the Stanley Cup Finals twice, but then they missed the finals and again he was fired.

He coached Canada's team in the 1981 World Championships at Stockholm, but clearly his coaching career was over. Then he was hired as a star hockey commentator first for NBC and then for CBC Sports. This was his comeback in hockey that he had been promised by the voice. In 2004 Canadian fans voted him one of the ten greatest Canadians. You guessed it: he is Don Cherry. But listen to what Don Cherry wrote to George:

"I remember my first game behind the Boston bench. As I looked around

at the crowd and out on the ice to see Bobby Orr and all the great Bruins who I was coaching, I thought back to my job in Rochester where I couldn't get a job sweeping floors and how I asked the Lord for help and to show me the way. I remembered how black and despondent and embarrassed I was. In only three years He pointed the way and I was back on top of the world. In just three years, and they say there is no God. The Lord rescued me in my darkest hour. If you are having a hard time in life like I was and you believe, He will help."

George sets stories like Don Cherry's under various headings such as Different Prayer, Healings, Life-Changing Encounters, Suffering, the Power of the Response and so on. My favorite stories are about the pregnancy that saved a woman dying of tuberculosis and the man who had a ministry to Six Hundred Haitians only after he forgave the drunk young woman who had crashed into his son's car, killing his son and putting his grandson on life support for life. God does help and more.

George Slater writes gentle and empathetic reflections on these true stories, thereby showing what a genuine counselor he is. You can find out how to get George's book from www.alongcomesgod.com.

COLUMN

The toy dogs of Group 5 – The final four

The Toy Poodle is the smallest of the three sizes of Poodles. It is exactly the same as the Miniature Poodle and the Standard Poodle except that it is only 10 inches tall at the shoulders. It can be any of the colors of the standard Poodle, black, white, brown, mottled or apricot.

The coats need lots of attention to keep it looking good. Most owners prefer to use a dog groomer to clip the coat short so

that it is easy to manage. The Toy Poodles are bright, lively, lively very quickly and can be great little watchdogs.

The Havanese is considered the dog from Cuba. It is doubtful that they originally started in Cuba. They resemble the Maltese

Terriers and the Bichon Frise. So it is thought that they were probably brought to Cuba by the Spanish explorers and traders. They have a long, soft, fluffy coat in shades of white, beige and grey. They weigh between 7-13 pounds and are happy,



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

friendly, outgoing, affectionate pets.

The breed that has the most difficult name to pronounce is the Toy Xoloitzcuintli pronounced Sholoitzcuintli. We know them better as the Mexican Hairless dogs. It is thought that they came from China as they resemble the Chinese Crested Dogs. Drawings of the Mexican Hairless dogs have been found in tombs in Mexico proving they existed over 2,000 years ago. In the 1500s they were used as food, but for medicinal purposes by the natives of that time. The heat from the bodies of these dogs @104 degrees was believed to relieve kidney troubles and rheumatism. For this reason

they were allowed to sleep

with their owners for health reasons. It was also believed that they didn't carry fleas.

Our final toy dog is the smallest dog in the world. He is the Chihuahua and he weighs only 2-4 pounds. He is a mystery dog where they may have started from but they did not originate in Mexico. Some researchers say China or Spain. But again, it is believed they were brought by early explorers, traded and left in Mexico. In the 1800's some American tourists saw these dogs in Mexico, took a liking to these tiny dogs and brought some back to the U.S.

Because they were found in the Mexican province of Chihuahua, they were then given that name. They are easy to keep clean and are very lively, and willing to please.

Finally, the toy pug was Best in Show at the highly Madison Square Gardens Dog Show in New York city, why it was the Pekingese.

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■ CONCESSIONS: No deep fryers at wellness centre

Subway stop coming to Vale complex

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORTE COLBORNE — It looks like Vale Health and Wellness Centre visitors will eat fresh.

This week city council directed staff to negotiate an agreement with Subway for food services and Goods Sports Excellence for retail services at the new centre, which is expected to open this fall.

An updated report was provided to council outlining the various companies who expressed interest in the facilities food services and retail spaces.

Gary Makins, Port Colborne's manager of community services, was asked by Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele to go through the list of companies who were approached about the expression of interest, listing those that submitted proposals and those who did not.

Several food service businesses, including the Ice Box, Centre Court Catering and

Toffolo Enterprises — the latter of which currently runs concessions at Westside Arena — submitted expressions of interest, received proposal packages, but never submitted formal proposals.

Subway was the only food services business to submit a formal proposal.

Two businesses were approached for the facility's retail space, but only Goods Sports Excellence submitted a proposal.

On Thursday, Tim Toffolo of Toffolo Enterprises said his company had to make the "economic decision" to bow out of the race as the facility's design did not include installation of necessary equipment and ventilation needed for deep frying.

About 65% of existing business at the Westside Arena canteen comes from french fries, Toffolo said, and after "crunching the numbers" he determined his business could not afford to make the capital investment — about \$20,000 in oven-based frying

equipment — it would need to take on food services at the new facility.

For the city to outfit the centre's two concession areas and bocce court canteen with necessities for deep frying, it "would have cost well over \$1 million," Steele said during the meeting.

As owner of the Port Colborne-based company, all proceeds from concession sales to support the junior B hockey team. It wasn't feasible, he said, for the non-profit organization to front funds needed to make the move to the new centre's concessions.

With loss of concessions revenue once the existing arena closes and no board advertisements at the new ice park, Toffolo will be out about \$30,000 in funding a year, Toffolo said.

He's hopeful the city will work in tandem with the group to help replace the missing revenue streams.

"We're looking forward to working together with the city to find a resolution so



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Tim Toffolo outside the Westside Arena.

we can continue on and provide junior B hockey for the community."

Toffolo said he wishes Subway all the best.

"It would certainly be nice to see a company as big as Subway give us a call and support local junior B hockey."

City staff will negotiate with

both Subway and Goods in the near future. Once agreements are reached, they will be brought to council for approval.

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HOSPITAL

Foundation for future health care

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORTE COLBORNE — A call-bell system, \$72,000; refrigerated centrifuge, \$11,000; eye-slit lamp, \$24,100; spirometer, printer and accessories, \$3,500; CADD pump, \$5,600; and vaccine refrigerator, \$5,000.

All those items are on Port Colborne Hospital Foundation's list of capital equipment to be purchased for various departments and the urgent care centre at the hospital.

"We're trying to create awareness of our fundraisers and what we do ... let people learn of the foundation," says foundation director Cindy Thorpe, the Scotiabank branch manager in Port Colborne.

One of the fundraisers held is the annual Ribbon of Lights campaign. That campaign sees people donate in memory of loved ones.

Thorpe and foundation administrator Debbie Spraggert said all funds raised by the foundation are

used for equipment needed by the hospital. Things like beds, wheelchairs, stretchers, the past and other funds have been used for the Ramona Pizzo-Bonnie Jackson Breast Screening Centre inside the hospital, on Sugarloaf St.

The Ontario government does not fund new or replacement equipment, so what's needed in local hospitals must be raised locally.

The two women said some organizations, such as the Legion, that funds raised and equipment purchased by the foundation leave the hospital if needed at another Niagara Health System site.

Nothing leaves the hospital.

If it's purchased for Port Colborne hospital, it stays.

"Thorpe said the foundation in Port Colborne works with Woodstock Hospital. The two of us, she share the cost of a booklet that lists the needs of both foundations."

"We maintain our own autonomy though, we just try and collaborate with Welland," said Spraggert, adding it helps the two foun-

dations save money.

While the foundation will start by holding fundraisers, it will be working on other events as well.

One of those events is a seminar on Monday, March 19, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at @27 Restaurant on Main St. W. It's called When There Is a Will ... There Is Estate Planning seminar.

Lawyer Chris Wilson, of Wilson Ostapchuk, will talk about estate planning issues along with Jeremy Doan of Crawford Smith and Swallow, Joshua Thorne, a senior will and estate planner with Scotia Private Client Group, and Dave Told, also of Scotia Private Client Group.

They'll talk about making sure loved ones are looked after, ensuring an estate is distributed as per wishes and how to minimize taxes, and will explain what the role of an executor is, among other matters.

For more information on the foundation and the seminar, which is free but has limited seating, call Spraggert at 905-834-4501 ext. 32126.

■ **WEST ST.**: City hall working with police to minimize nuisances

Canal-side crackdown on unruly youth

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "We want you to feel safe in your own community."

It's the message Staff Sgt. Murray Haday wants to convey to the many tourists, visitors and visitors who frequent Port Colborne's historic West St.

The canal-side street has been the subject of controversy in the past year due to the activity of unruly youth who use the touristy street as a hub for social activity. Police have been called to the area in the past to deal with issues such as graffiti, vandalism, trespassing and harassment.

One of Haday's goals for 2012 was to establish a line of communication to users of the street. As a result there's been an increased foot patrol of uniformed officers in the area.

Niagara Regional Police



Ryan McHaggis spends an afternoon at the Port Promenade performing tricks with his bicycle off the sundial with his friends in this June 2011 file photo.

officers will be patrolling West St. on foot for one year.

An officer will also act as a liaison with the Port Colborne Downtown Business Improvement Area to address any safety concerns about West St.

"The initiative is to have more officers involved to take ownership of safety of the community," Haday said. "West St. is a big focus. There will be increased foot patrol. If offences are made — whether it's bylaws or skateboarding — charges will be laid."

Haday stressed that officers will be talking with youth in order to prevent any nuisance and property damage from occurring in the area.

The NRP worked closely with the City of Port Colborne to come up with a strategy that

is beneficial of all patrons of West St. Mayor Vance Badaway said a majority of the youth in Port Colborne are receptive to working with the municipality through avenues such as the mayor's youth advisory council, Safe Communities Port Colborne-Wainfleet and local schools to create programs that get youth involved in Port Colborne.

"They are becoming the solution instead of the problem," Badaway said. "We're working with them to find solutions such as building the skateboard park or programs at the new multi-use centre. The youth are getting involved. A lot of solutions come from the youth. From day one we worked with police and youth to become proactive (on the issue)."

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The lack of **NO** greatly affects our body, and when we lose the ability to generate sufficient amounts of **NO**, this sets the stage for a number of different disease processes. As we age, we become **NO** insufficient and scientists believe this is the earliest sign of progression of many diseases including cardiovascular disease, the number one killer of men and women in North America. Unfortunately, until recently there was really no way to know if you were **NO** insufficient because there were no diagnostics for doctors to test their patients. Furthermore there was no real solution to restoring **NO** homeostasis.

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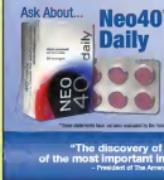
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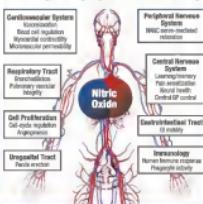
About...



"The discovery of Nitric Oxide and its function is one of the most important in the history of cardiovascular medicine." - President of the American Heart Association, quoted in The New York Times

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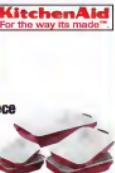
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■ KILLALY ST. E.

Gas leak closes Port Colborne roads



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Niagara Regional Police work with Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services on a strategy Feb. 29 on how to enter a property on Killaly St. E. with a reported gas leak. A section of the street was closed off as a safety precaution.

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Sections of Port Colborne's east side were closed off Feb. 29 as police and firefighters investigated a gas leak.

Killaly St. from Davis to Grassie as well as the entrance to Humboldt Pkwy. were shut down after emergency personnel were called to at 148 Killaly St. E. at about 3:35 p.m. Feb. 29.

Mike Benda, fire prevention officer from Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services, said the owner of the property was inside the building when he noticed a strange odour.

Benda said the gas line was shut off while hydro crews were on site to turn off the electricity as a precautionary measure.

Because gas level readings were high, firefighters ventilated the building to remove any lingering fumes before proceeding inside to investigate.

"We had to evacuate several homes around the property," Benda said. "We had to make sure the area was secure and safe."

Several onlookers noted they could smell the gas from metres away.

The property was subject to a fire more than a year ago. Benda said the property owner was working inside to repair the damage caused by the fire in the hope of renting out the storefront.

The fire department concluded its investigation at 4:30 p.m. that day and then reopened the roads.

■ ENERGY

Turbine setback bylaw wouldn't be legal: lawyer

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The township has no legal authority to pass a bylaw on wind turbine setbacks, a lawyer representing a local Renewable Power Inc. told aldermen Monday.

Zijad Saskin of the firm Brodricker and Partners LLP, said regulations for the setback distance of wind turbines have been set by the province's Green Energy Act at 550 metres from the nearest residence.

Council had been asked by Wainfleet Ratepayers Association to draft a bylaw making that setback width mandatory and staff had been working on that bylaw for the past several weeks. A report was before council outlining four options around such a bylaw.

Saskin said Wainfleet was in receipt of a letter from his colleague Ed Lustig outlining the firm's position on the council's potential bylaw.

"Our legal opinion is the township does not have the legal authority to pass such a bylaw."

He said sections 37 and 38 under the Planning Act does give the authority to regulate setbacks of buildings and structures. However, under the Green Energy Act, the section of the Planning Act that gives council that authority was amended, exempting renewable energy projects.

"You have to defer to provincial regulations for wind turbines and distance to noise receptors."

Saskin wasn't sure council to talk about science, health or business

implications of wind turbines, just what the law is currently and the authority the township has.

"I know this will cause quite a bit of disagreement among residents ... if they disagree with the position there are other means of peaceful dissent."

People can protest or sign petitions, he said. It's not appropriate, he added, for council to protest provincial regulations by passing a bylaw that it does not have the authority to pass.

"West Lincoln considered a bylaw, but decided not to pass it for legal reasons. On behalf of our council, I respectfully request council not to do the same," he said.

Rankin Renewable Power Inc. was a partner with IPC Energy Inc., the firm working on behalf of Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. to build a number of wind turbines in the township. Tom Lewis, IPC's planning and environment manager, was in the crowd, as was a member of Rankin's firm, when Saskin made his presentation.

Ald. David Wyatt understood what Saskin was saying, but said people and the township have the right to challenge the province and its Green Energy Act.

Saskin said council can challenge the province, but not by passing a bylaw, which in his firm's opinion, it does not have the authority to pass.

Wyatt said the township and council have the right to protect the health and safety of the people.

"There is no scientific or medical

evidence to say 550 metres is safe ... our primary concern is health and safety," the alderman said.

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■ STEELE STREET SCHOOL

Math, language on the menu at The Smokin Stingers



DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORTE COLBORNE — Udon soup, quesadillas and Vietnamese rice paper rolls were on the menu of a new restaurant — The Smokin' Stingers — that opened its doors for the first time on Thursday morning.

But the restaurant wasn't open to the general public, rather it was open to more than 70 family members of students attending Steele Street School in Port Colborne.

The setting for Smokin' Stingers was the school's gym and the chefs and servers were grades 5 and 6 students from teacher Chrys Fraipont's class.

"At the beginning of the school year we chose some projects that would help enhance the curriculum, as well as be something we will all remember in years to come," said Fraipont.

She said the restaurant touched on all aspects of the curriculum, starting with community building by reaching out to restaurateur Kevin Echlin, owner of The Smokin' Buddha in Port Colborne. Invitations were created on

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Autumn Chevette rolls up a Vietnamese rice paper roll at Steele Street School in Port Colborne on Thursday, Grades 5 and 6 students, with the help of The Smokin' Buddha owner Kevin Echlin, operated their own restaurant called The Smokin' Stinger and helped prepare the food.

At the beginning of the school year we chose some projects that would help enhance the curriculum, as well as be something we will all remember in years to come."

Chrys Fraipont, teacher

school computers, touching on technology aspects, and the menu used descriptive words, touching on language.

"The restaurant also touches on health, math, music and visual arts," said Fraipont.

Students created art pieces and took photos of all those involved and hung them around the school's gym. Music was playing in the background as family members were treated by a host and hostess at the door.

Two girls thanked everyone for coming and told them what the three-course meal, which cost \$5, was for the restaurant.

"This is the first time we've done this ... we're so excited," said Fraipont, just before the lunch started.

In addition to all of the work carried out before hand, students were hands-on when it came to part of the meal.

They helped roll the Vietnamese rice paper rolls, both vegetarian and chicken, as Echlin and one of his employees watched and assisted when necessary.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Braydon Morrison rolls up a Vietnamese rice paper roll at Steele Street School in Port Colborne on Thursday, Grades 5 and 6 students, with the help of The Smokin' Buddha owner Kevin Echlin, operated their own restaurant called The Smokin' Stinger and helped prepare the food.

Echlin was happy to help the school out. He already visits every week for its Nutrition Break program. The nutritional break sees students eat a healthy snack twice a day, instead of students heading home for lunch.

The first break is at 10:30 a.m., when students eat a healthy snack, which is followed by a 25-minute fitness break. The second break starts at 12:55 p.m. and follows the same pattern.

Echlin is at the school each Wednesday serving up a healthy meal, as well as making sure the School Board of Niagara health standards.

The 28 students from Fraipont's class lined up in front of Echlin and his employee and each made rice rolls for the meal.

"The kids were really attentive," he said, adding how they were making the rolls — with nothing but ingredients, rice paper, hot water and a cutting board — was how he started out.

Asked if he'd consider running another restaurant with the students, the Smokin' Buddha owner said yes, but he'd set things up a little differently to make things easier.

The Udon soup, he said, had to be started ahead of time at his restaurant and then warmed in micro-waves at the school.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca
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■ FACILITY

'Holy mackerel!' Butters says to YMCA's fees

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

POR COLBORNE — Port Colborne is hoping YMCA will be a hit — and no, not the Village People song.

The city is negotiating a deal to have the non-profit YMCA run aquatic, fitness and recreation programming at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre when it opens its doors this fall.

YMCA representatives made a presentation to city council recently to outline what the potential partnership would entail.

The YMCA's proposal includes various aquatics programs, such as swimming lessons for all ages and aquafit, fitness programs such as Zumba and yoga, adult recreational sports, and various programs for seniors and youth.

The organization is expected to provide 300 hours of programming through 245 programs per week once fully up and running.

The city now offers between 10 and 15 programs — nowhere near the number proposed by the organization, Mayor Vance Badaway told council.

All programs would be included in the cost of membership. Proposed membership fees will be the same as the Fort Erie YMCA, the closest comparable to Port Colborne's facility.

An adult monthly membership for ages 24 plus is \$43; young adult 18 to 23 and youth 13-17 is \$29.50. A general family pass is \$85 and family pass with children is \$75.

Day passes can be purchased for swimming and use of other YMCA-run

portions of the facility.

For people unable to afford membership, the YMCA offers subsidies to assist with costs.

People will be able to use public areas of the facility, including the lobby, snack bar and viewing areas, as well as the indoor walking/running track at no cost.

"The cost of running the facility for me seems really high," said Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais, who raised concern that no senior pricing is available for seniors.

She said she could not picture seniors having to go in and submit their monthly expenses to gain subsidy.

"I don't think it's affordable and I want to see efforts made to reduce (membership fees)."

Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters said she received calls from residents concerned they may not be able to afford to use the new centre once it's completed.

Jumping from \$178 a year, the cost for membership to Centennial Pool, to a Y adult fee proposal of \$516 annually to swim a few times each week is "fairly expensive," she added.

"I'm impressed with everything that's offered, but my initial reaction is 'holy mackerel!'" Butters said of the fees.

She also noted how the YMCA in the past has provided services to existing clients into a newly-established Y.

"We've got good people at our pools. I'd hate to lose that expertise," she said.

In response, YMCA of Niagara CEO Jason Brown said other Ontario Y's have done this before and the organization would look to specific branches for guidance.

■ ANNIVERSARY

DeWitt Carter turning 100

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

POR COLBORNE — City council was schooled Monday night on an upcoming centennial celebration.

Principal Jay MacJanet visited council chambers in hopes of gaining support from elected officials for the 100th anniversary celebration of DeWitt Carter Public School.

The school, which opened in 1912, will mark its milestone on April 27. The celebration will coincide with District School Board of Niagara's Education Week and take place the same evening as the school's annual family fun fair.

"We're bringing past and present Dragons back to the school to make his-

tory," MacJanet told councillors, several of whom cited personal connections with the longtime Port schoolhouse.

Each classroom will represent a different decade in the school's history, feature photos and artifacts and showcase significant moments in each era.

Through the various pieces of history lent by members of the community, the hope is to "make history come to life" for both present and past students, MacJanet said.

For more information about the celebration or to lend memorabilia or photos, call the school at 905-834-7440, e-mail depcschool100@gmail.com, or search 100 Years of DeWitt Carter Public School on Facebook.

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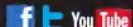
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■ POLICING

Plea to curb Wainfleet speeders

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Speed can kill.

And in Wainfleet, speed is a problem, Jay McKnight — a Niagara Regional Police community policing officer in the township — told aldermen recently.

But McKnight wasn't before council in an official capacity. Rather he was there as a resident of the township, who, like others, is concerned over people speeding on rural roads.

The Concession 1 resident has lived in Wainfleet for three years and knows all too well of the problems.

He wanted to appear before council at an earlier meeting when other residents first raised the issue, but was just given permission to speak and bring police statistics with him.

Township roads, including gravel ones, have a speed limit of 80 km/h, unless otherwise posted. And most

roads in the township don't have signs showing the limit. "Eighty kilometres an hour is too fast for most roads in Wainfleet," said McKnight. "As a resident I've observed cars very much over the speed limit."

Police, he said, have clocked cars travelling up to 137 km/h, while most regu-

larly travel anywhere between 107 and 110 km/h. One man was clocked at 127 km/h on an 80-km/h road and it was his third time in three weeks being caught travelling in excess of the speed limit.

"In a two-hour span earlier this month we handed out 10 tickets and not one was for under 105 km/h."

In 2011, regional police issued 1,115 tickets in Wainfleet. Of those, 28 were on Concession 1, roughly 3% of all issued in Wainfleet.

"So far this year we've handed out 156 tickets and out of those 14 were on Concession 1. That's about 10% of all the tickets given out."

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■ ACCOLADES: The best in business honoured at 18th annual event

Entrepreneur awards recognize winners' excellence

QMI Agency Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS — Twenty-two businesspeople, community and youth leaders from across the region were recognized last Friday during the 18th annual Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

The award winners were:

Emerging Entrepreneur Award: Joe Hilbing, First in Counters Granite, Welland.

Established Enterprise Award: Marc Coons, Coons Heating & Sheet Metal Ltd., Port Robinson.

FAMILY ENTERPRISE AWARD: Lorna Garratt, Kane's Distributing Ltd., St. Catharines.

Innovative Small Business Award: Nancy Campbell and Gay Douglas, ONESource Moving Solutions for Seniors, St. Catharines.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AWARD: Andrew Witt, Matt Witt and Steve Witt, Stanpac, Smithville.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AWARD: Stephen Charlton, Free Force Machining Technology

Inc. St. Catharines, Environmental Enterprise Award: Dirk Vrugteveen and Fred Vrugteveen, Niagara Pellet & Recyclers Ltd., West Lincoln.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD: John Marsh and Rosanne Marsh, Port Colborne.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: John Walker and Norris Walker, Walker Industries Holdings Ltd., Thorold.

Historical Hall of Fame Award: The late Brian Doherty, Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

NIAGARA ORIGINAL AWARD: Darren Cranford, Keyframe Digital Productions Inc., Niagara-on-the-Lake.

GENE LUCERI SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEUR AWARD: Sharly Chan, Niagara Falls; Mary Anne Davies, Niagara Falls; Rhys Evans, Fonthill; David Nguyen, Niagara Falls; Katie Wlosky, Niagara Falls.

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■ MUSIC

Nashville sound at Roselawn

LINDSAY COSTELLO
For InPort News

PORL COLBORNE — The music

of Nashville will make its way to the lakeside city this Saturday as musicians gather to pay tribute to some legendary country artists.

Headlining the evening's concert is Niagara-based group The Grant Carson Band, one of four acts that will entertain the crowd

at the Roselawn Centre.

They'll be playing music from the likes of Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline.

"It's a salute to the Grand Ole Opry," said Grant Carson Band keyboardist and auto harp player Emily Vaughan of the performances, which will begin at 8 p.m. and incorporate tributes to a variety of country music artists.

The Grand Ole Opry Salute comes at a special time as it coincides with the group's 25th anniversary year, a feat Vaughan cites as a significant milestone for the group.

"There aren't many bands that stick together that long anymore," she said. "We're very proud."

She and her bandmates — Grant Carson, who provides vocals as well as lead guitar and fiddle; Jackie Carson, who plays the drums; Stan Van Dijk, who plays bass; and George Webb, who plays steel guitar — have made a name for themselves in Niagara and have

 There aren't many bands that stick together that long anymore. We're very proud.

Emily Vaughan

been able to perform across the country over the course of their careers.

"It's a nice set of songs," said Vaughan of the hour-long set the group has planned for Saturday's performance.

"We hope everyone enjoys the music," she said, adding it is a show that she feels any country music fan would be pleased to hear.

Joining The Grant Carson Band are Marty Allen, Debbie Bayshaw, Angie Siracusa and The Peace River Boys.

Tickets are \$22.50 and are available through the Roselawn Box Office by calling 905-834-0833.

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File photo

The Grant Carson Band performs at the Merritt Park Amphitheatre during a Variety Nites by the Canal concert in this July 2010 file photo. The group celebrates its 25th anniversary year as the headliner this Saturday in The Grand Ole Opry Salute at the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne.


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■ SPORTS**VOLLEYBALL**

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	Healthy Cupboard			Healthy Cupboard			Competitive B			The Reeb House			F.A.Y Farms						
	30	30	30		30	29	30		22	30	30	9	22	16	30	30	30		
Island Heat	28	15	22	Frank's Home Hardware				The Mill Ridgeway							Drifter's	22	23	27	
Smokin Buddha				24	30	23		Port Colborne Laundry	27	30	17	Dr. Parr	30	30	30				
Buckner's	27	30	29	Emerald Pines	30	30	22	McNay Construction	30	24	23	RCJ Dream Renovations	30	21	30	The Belmont	30	26	30
Canalside	30	21	30	Davidson Funeral Homes				South Coast Cookhouse							Boggio's	28	30	25	
Buckner's	25	26	16		28	26	30		30	30	30	The City Tavern							

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■ STATE OF THE REGION

Niagara Region
Building Community. Building Lives.



BOB TYMCZYSZYN QMI Agency Niagara
The State of the Region address was given by regional chairman Gary Burroughs at John Michaels Banquet and Conference Centre in Thorold on Feb. 29.

'The year for results'

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Niagara Region is poised for big, co-operative results in the year ahead, the regional chair says.

"2012 is the year for results," Gary Burroughs said Wednesday at the State of the Region address in Thorold.

As he pointed to a raft of changes the Region made in 2011, he struck a tone of teamwork, calling for Niagara's players to work together.

"There are positive steps, but we still have work ahead of us, and none of us can do it alone," he said.

"Now isn't the time to sit back and look at our achievements," he said. "It's time to take hold of this positive momentum and ensure changes will have positive, measurable impacts on our communities."

Burroughs, going into his second year as chair, singled out the Region's newly-launched governance review as a priority this year. Results are due in July, he said, with a restructuring session to follow.

The effort will be council-driven, he said, and will involve both heavy debate and big impacts for the Region.

"This is undoubtedly a tough discussion, but one that has been the elephant in the room for years," he said.

He said the Region needs to focus on getting the message out about what it does and how they do it. And, he said, the more the Region works well within itself, the more willing it will be of government to work in touch with it.

Burroughs pointed to a raft of big achievements laid out in 2011, praising council for passing two budgets before Christmas and lauding an ongoing review of water and wastewater services. He also touted the Region's new economic development plan and the fledgling responsive Region improvement team, a value-for-money task force, as strengths.

The economic development plan is expected to be up and running this

year and the responsive team got off the ground in January.

Niagara Region Transit also got a nod from Burroughs. But though he called for a group effort to ensure the service sticks around, he left the door open as to whether it would be the Region ultimately driving the bus.

But, he said, he's not throwing in the towel on regional transit.

"There's nothing to say that the private sector shouldn't take it over, or some other mix," he told reporters after the speech.

He noted the Region would need a triple majority to run its own bus services. That means getting the OK from the majority of regional councillors and municipalities representing a majority of voters cast in the last election.

"Personally, I don't think it's the role of the Region," he said. "The role is clearly to make sure it's happening, and we're doing that by way of the pilot."

Speaking to reporters, he acknowledged the Region and Niagara's 12 lower municipalities aren't always on good terms.

"I would say, certainly in our past, there has been a mistrust (of the Region) and I think it's a lack of understanding," he said.

"I'm hoping, right away, that we're going to start to change that and to earn the trust."

He said the Region can build trust by getting together with an honest intent to help.

And Burroughs said working together doesn't necessarily lead to one Niagara in the end.

The governance review, he said, will give council a field to look at the facts. That could mean determining if Niagara really does have too many politicians.

"There are differences," he said. "(Municipalities are) very proud of the differences. We should be celebrating the differences rather than trying to make everybody uniform."

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MONDAY, MARCH 12

The Port Colborne Historical Society is very pleased to have former MP John Maloney as our guest speaker this month. Mr. Maloney will talk about his "Life on the Hill" at 7 p.m. at Portal Village Retirement Home. All welcome. Please call 905-835-2291 for more information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Trivia night at First Lutheran Church, 688 Elm St., in the church hall. Door prizes, snacks, pizza, beverages and fun. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and questions start at 7 p.m. Tickets \$5.00 each. Trivia tickets can be purchased individually or assemble a team of 8 to 10 trivia enthusiasts. Reserve your table and buy your

tickets at 905-835-8111 or firstlutheranpc@gmail.com. The event is a fundraiser for the church.

AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ONGOING: THROUGH MARCH

INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY with Barb Ranshaw. Thursdays, March 1, 8,

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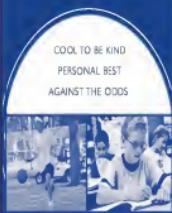
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Nominees must be a resident of Pelham, Port Colborne, Wainfleet or Welland. Their accomplishments must have occurred within the past year. There is a 1,000 word limit for all nominations. No additional material will be accepted. Judges will rate each nominee from 1-10 in the following:

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- 5) Pressure Truck Operators and Swimmers
- 6) Hydro-Vac Truck Operators and Swimmers
- 7) Vacuum Truck Operators and Swimmers
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"Research advances continue to grow"
We are on the threshold of a new era in cancer research. We're really confident that we can beat cancer. By Helen Phillips

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS:

Claims against the Estate of Luigi Comiso, late of Port Colborne, in the Province of Ontario, died January 15, 2011, must be filed by December 1, 2011. It will be in my hands by March 30, 2012, after which date the assets of the Estate will be distributed.

Port Colborne, Ontario this 24th day of February, 2012.

Christopher E. H. Wilson, Estate Trustee
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Claims against the Estate of Gerald Thompson, late of Port Colborne, Ontario, died on the 27th day of July, 2011, must be in our hands by April 20, 2012, after which date the assets of the Estate will be distributed.

Jim Munro, Estate Trustee
c/o WILSON, OPATOVSKY
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